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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

Prepared Weekly

for the

SENIOR INTERDEPARTMENTAL GROUP

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

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2. DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The young leftist militants who recently gained control of the Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) intend to take a stronger and more vociferous stand against the Balaguer regime. The PRD is the country's largest and most influential opposition group.

The radicals have recently intensified their criticism of Balaguer, renewing charges that he was fraudulently elected and comparing his regime to the Reid government, overthrown in 1965. The new provisional secretary general of the PRD, 29-year-old Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, was a major figure in the plotting that led to Reid's ouster. Recently Pena, who has been a close supporter of ex-party president Juan Bosch, expressed the view that to survive as an effective political force the party must advocate a militant brand of "democratic socialism" and adopt a "nationalistic and revolutionary" policy toward Balaguer.

The radicals' extreme line suggests that they may cooperate on some issues with the Communists and other far-leftists.

Bosch has welcomed the "new generation of leaders," and his recent bitter attacks on the US and Balaguer demonstrate an acceptance of their thinking. Bosch is planning an extended trip to Europe and has temporarily withdrawn from national politics, but he will still retain an influence over PRD developments through his new post of party adviser.

Developments within the PRD underscore the growing polarization of Dominican politics despite Balaguer's hopes of establishing a "government of national unity." The President has assessed Pena's theoretical approach to politics as "Communistic" and his methods as clearly subversive, and one adviser has already privately voiced criticism of the President for not adopting a firm stand toward the PRD. This attitude portends strong pressure on Balaguer to take repressive action to silence his adversaries. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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3. COSTA RICA

The frustrations which led President Jose Joaquin Trejos to threaten to resign last week have apparently been papered over for the present. Trejos heads a coalition of three diverse parties which defeated the National Liberation Party (PLN) candidate in the election this year by a very slim margin. The PLN, however, which won a majority of seats in the legislature, has impeded Trejos' badly needed economic reform program in retaliation for what it considers persecution by the government. Furthermore, the leaders of the parties making up the governing coalition have constantly bickered among themselves for control of the government. All sides realize the seriousness of the situation and talks are being initiated on several levels. Nevertheless, leaders of both the government and the opposition are still in disagreement among themselves over whether and how a durable modus vivendi can be established. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM)

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